

MDA No.	1	2	3	4
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Title: Highway Code Consultation

Executive Summary

At the Transport Committee meeting on 8 October 2020 the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree a response to the Department for Transport consultation on a review of The Highway Code.

Following the meeting, the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Leaders, agreed the Committee's response to the consultation on a review of the Highway Code, as attached at Appendix 1.

Decision

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, agree the Committee's response to the consultation on a review of the Highway Code, as attached at Appendix 1.

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date

26 October 2020



Printed Name Dr Alison Moore AM (Chair, Transport Committee)

Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Notes:

1. The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

Background and proposed next steps:

On 28 July 2020, the Department for Transport launched a consultation on the review of the Highway Code to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. The deadline for submissions is 27 October 2020.

At the Transport Committee meeting on 8 October 2020 the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree a response to the Department for Transport consultation on a review of The Highway Code.

Following the meeting, the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Leaders, agreed the Committee's response to the consultation on a review of the Highway Code, as attached at Appendix 1.

The Committee's response will be reported back to the next suitable meeting of the Transport Committee, currently scheduled for 1 December 2020.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee
Services



Date 21 October 2020

Print Name:

Laura Pelling

Tel: X. 5526

Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signed by Finance

Date

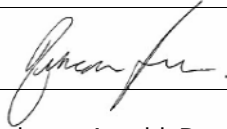
Print Name

Tel:

Legal implications

The Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal



Date 21 October 2020.....

Print Name

Rebecca Arnold, Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: X 4421

Supporting detail/List of Consultees: Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair), Keith Prince AM, David Kurten AM, Caroline Russell AM

Public Access to Information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 – Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form - No

Lead Officer/Author

Signed

...L Rigg.....

Date 26 October 2020

Print Name

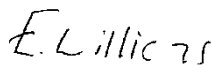
Luke Rigg

Tel: 07511 782731

Job Title

Policy Adviser

Countersigned by Executive Director



Date 26 October 2020

Print Name

Ed Williams

Tel: X4399



Appendix 1

Dr Alison Moore AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
(Sent by email)

26 October 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Consultation on the review of The Highway Code

I am writing to submit the majority view of the London Assembly Transport Committee to the Government's consultation on changes to The Highway Code.

It should be noted that this letter does not represent the views of the Conservative and Brexit Alliance Groups.

The Highway Code is a key resource for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists, providing guidance on how to make the roads safer for everyone. The Code is particularly important for London, where there are some of the country's busiest and most congested roads.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected significantly the transport network in London. Travel patterns have been altered and new cycle lanes and pedestrian spaces are rapidly expanding across the capital.

Therefore, the Committee welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation to improve and enhance the existing guidelines.

Over the last few years, the Committee has published several reports on road safety, which cut across many of the proposed changes outlined in the consultation. For example, the Committee's [Hostile Streets](#) report (2017) examined how Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London could improve conditions on some of London's busiest roads and junctions to enable walking and cycling. Similarly, the Committee's [London's Cycling Infrastructure](#) report assessed the Mayor of London's plans to upgrade the cycling infrastructure and called for improved cycling safety standards. Both reports inform the Committee's response to the consultation.

Priorities for cyclists and rules for pedestrians

The Committee supports both the proposal to introduce new Rule H2 (creating clearer and stronger priorities for pedestrians) and the proposal to introduce new Rule H3 (clarifying priorities for cyclists at junctions) and the proposal to require drivers to give way to pedestrians and cyclists at junctions.

As part of our *Hostile Streets* investigation, the Committee visited various main roads and junctions across London, including the Croydon Fiveways, the Bow Roundabout and the A4 near Brentford. The Committee identified several fundamental safety issues at the locations, such as routes that were left without safe crossings and junctions that were unpassable for pedestrians and cyclists.

As a result, the Committee urged TfL to identify outer London junctions that cause problems of community severance and called for TfL to run an improvement programme to resolve high risk road danger issues for cyclists.

The Committee has also supported previous research by British Cycling, which found that changes to the rules requiring vehicles to give way to pedestrians and cyclists when turning would not only save time for those waiting their turn but it would also simplify the decision of junctions. The Committee notes that such junction designs and rules already apply in many other countries.

The Committee has welcomed innovation in the development of new road markings and signage in parts of London, as it has improved the walking and cycling experiences in those areas. The Committee would encourage the Government to consider adopting road markings similar to the '*Elephants Footprint*' markings used at various locations in London and around the world. The

markings would identify clearly the edge of a cycle lane across a side road and would signal to drivers that they should give way.

General rules, techniques and advice for all drivers and riders

The Committee supports the spirit and letter of Rule 123 to recognise speed limits of 20 mph in some local authority regions and built up areas. In the *Hostile Streets* report, the Committee noted the success of 20 mph trials in inner London and recommended implementing further 20mph limits across the TfL road network. The Committee firmly believes that reducing traffic speeds is vital in minimising the risk of pedestrians and cyclists being killed or seriously injured on London's roads.

The Committee also supports the proposed changes to Rule 140 on giving way to cyclists using a cycle track. This is particularly relevant on London's Cycle ways on busy roads, which by design, separate cyclists from general traffic. The proposed change would reinforce these protected spaces for cyclists and would improve the safety of motorists and cyclists alike.

More generally, there has been a growth in the number of dedicated cycle lanes in London over the last year, which has generally been welcomed by the Committee, particularly where those cycle lanes have local support and have been well-considered. However, steps need to be taken to improve the confidence of new cyclists, as has been identified at recent Committee meetings. Therefore, the Committee welcomes any change that improves cyclists' safety on the roads and improves their confidence as a consequence.

Conclusion

Now, more than ever, safe road conduct is necessary to maximise the flow of the transport network in London and prevent collisions and injuries. The Committee welcomes this timely consultation and its proposals, many of which are in line with existing work on road safety. The Committee looks forward to reading the Government's final proposals.

If you have any questions regarding the Committee's consultation response, please contact Luke Rigg, the Committee's Policy Adviser (luke.rigg@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Alison Moore AM
Chair of the Transport Committee